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Tonight, Ashley, and Frances Clark dined with us. Aside from his BBC appointment, Ashley is now the representative of the Banca Commerciale Italiana in England. This ought to be a rewarding position. I imagine he will pick up other directorships.

October 20, 1962 - Saturday

Had a haircut this morning, went to the office, and wrote the following letter to George Ball:

Virginia Surtees lunched with us.

October 21, 1962 - Sunday

I thought this would be a day of quietude. Such is not the case. I received a message from Washington early in the morning, asking whether I expected to be in London today and tomorrow. A couple of hours later, I began to get telephone calls and messages transmitted through three separate Embassy channels, indicating that something unusual was afoot in Washington. Telegrams ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ brought out to me were not especially enlightening until supplemented by a conversation with Bill Tyler in the Department, who said I was to meet a military plane at twelve o'clock tonight, at Greenham Common Airport. There I was to be briefed on what would later be required of me, before the plane went on to Paris and other destinations. A telegram that followed mystified me slightly by naming as one of the passengers on the plane Dean Acheson.

Archie Roosevelt and I motored out to the airfield, near Newbury, a trip of over two hours. This is a SAC base. The ship, one of the President's three jets, arrived ahead of time. Aboard it, amongst others, were Red Dowling, Dean Acheson, Sherman Kent, and Chet Cooper. They told us there had been a great commotion for several days in Washington, as a result of the discovery that the Soviets had been busily developing a missile potential in Cuba that would be useful for offensive

SECRET

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purposes. In fact, many missiles were already in place, and a large number of airplanes, including twin-engine bombers ready to fly. The most dangerous thing about this capability was that medium-range ballistic missiles, with a range of 1100 nautical miles, could reach as far as Washington, and southward beyond the Panama Canal. The intermediate RBM's, with a range of 2200 nautical miles, could blanket the United States, with the exception of an area near Seattle, as well as reach south deep into Latin America.

The President ~~has~~ been considering this threat closely for some days. In fact, the abandonment of his campaign tour on the grounds of having a cold was a pretext for returning to Washington to face this unexpected development. The intelligence ^{was} ascertained by high altitude reconnaissance photography, the validity of which ^{is} not in doubt. I was instructed to see the Prime Minister tomorrow afternoon at four o'clock, while Acheson is to brief General de Gaulle and the NATO Council later that day, and Dowling is to report the affair to ^{the} Chancellor tomorrow evening. At midnight tomorrow (7:00 p.m. American time) the President is going on the air to declare how he intends to handle the crisis.

It appears there has been violent contention at home about what should be done. Some advocated the hard line of wiping out the bases and equipment, but a temporizing policy seems to have won the day. It is rather unclear as to what this consists of, but the President's talk will serve ^{for} elucidation.

Archie, Chet Cooper (who is to brief us more fully tomorrow) and myself returned to London about three a.m. The plane went on to Paris, and thence to Bonn.

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET

report adopted in Washington. I sent Roosevelt over to fill him in for his forthcoming conversations with Mountbatten and Home. Thus far this has been a messy affair as respects this Embassy, ill coordinated, which is surprising, in view of its serious and dangerous nature.

I had an engagement to lunch with Ken Galbraith today, but he was suddenly called away under instructions to return to India at once where the difficulties between the Chinese and the Indians have erupted into war.

Reginald H. Pettus of Charlotte Court House, came to see me this afternoon, with his daughter. He is a delightful fellow, and as Commonwealth's Attorney has done a fine job in the county. I ~~had~~ promised last year to give a considerable sum of money toward the reconstruction of the Court House if the local Board of Supervisors would carry out the plans advocated by Pettus. This is now being done.

As a result of briefing by Cooper and the others, I prepared notes for discussion this morning with the Prime Minister, as follows:

The letter from the President to Macmillan, on which my conversation with the latter was founded, was a recital of what steps Mr. Kennedy expected to take, and invited the PM to take the opportunity should he wish it, to discuss the situation between themselves by means of their private channel of communication.

October 23, 1962 - Tuesday

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My morning started about midnight, when Al Wells called me regarding the Cuban affair. At one o'clock, the Prime Minister telephoned me, saying he had just had a telephone conversation with the President, and indicated that the British Government would go along with us. The PM was warm and friendly, as he ~~was~~ was earlier in the day, and said we would be discussing these matters again shortly. At about the same time though I was unconscious of it, there was a demonstration in front of the Embassy Office, ~~Banking of Governor Square~~, protesting against the

SECRET
DECLASSIFIED

President's speech, which, in London time, ~~was~~ delivered at midnight. The British morning papers did not have time for editorial comment, nor will there be much such until tomorrow ~~morning~~ morning.

E and I lunched at Buckingham Palace, where the Queen entertained in honor of Laurie and Isabel Norstad, and their daughter, Mrs. Craw. The other guests were Lord Mountbatten, (Prince Philip not being present), the Homes, Antonia and Hugh Fraser, Sir Michael Adeane, ^{Sir}/Mark Milbank, and Lady Margaret Hay. There was the usual excellent Palace food, with a ~~good~~ good 1959 Moselle. I sat between the Queen and Antonia Fraser, the former of whom displayed a lively interest in the Cuban imbroglio.

The Embassy was picketed all day by placard carriers ~~with~~ such signs as Cuba si, Yankees no. Some of them had to be bodily removed from the lobby by the Police.

Eugene T. Kinnaly, Administrative Assistant to Speaker John McCormack, came with a friend to see me this afternoon. Since he had been associated with the legislative branch for almost 45 years, he had many stories, some of them droll, about happenings in the House of Representatives.

Robert Lutyens came to see me this afternoon. I have long considered having him paint my portrait, since I must leave one behind when I quit this post. He is an old friend, the son of Sir Edwin Lutyens, the famous architect.

At six o'clock, I went to Archie Roosevelt's house, to meet Hugh Gaitskell and George Brown, who were to be briefed on Cuba by Chet Cooper.

I called Joan Koch de Gooreynd this morning, to inquire about Peter. He had ^{RELO} 6-17-51 telephoned me yesterday ~~me~~ in a state of evident excitement, saying he was under the influence of sedatives and would have to go to hospital later this week, for the removal of "part of one arm". The chief reason for his call was in reference to an article

SECRET

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by Ian Fleming, in yesterday's OBSERVER, commenting on the book "The Quiet Canadian". In the course of his remarks, Fleming [redacted] referred to [redacted] having Sir Stewart Menzies [redacted] been Chief of MI6 during the war. de Gooreynd, as one of Menzies' deputies, took umbrage at this, saying it was the first time the identity of his Chief had ever been disclosed. I consider this an inaccurate statement, since it was well known after the war to many people that Menzies, known and addressed in his own organization only as "C", had been carrying on such work.

Joan Koch de Gooreynd said Peter had already gone to the hospital, where he would remain for two months, much of the time under sedation. She did not speak of an operation, so I begin to suspect he may be slightly off his rocker.

The Embassy sustained a massive assault this evening. About 2,000 people had gathered in Grosvenor Square, amongst them tough elements probably belonging to the Communist Party. The manifestation was ostensibly the work of the Committee of One Hundred (Lord Russell's anti-bomb people). The crowd attempted to break through the plate glass doors of the ground floor, but were repulsed by the Police. The Police Force was augmented by officers brought in from other parts of London. It finally consisted of almost 300 Bobbies. The Commandant of the Metropolitan Police District appeared in person, called away from a dinner at Claridges. Findley Burns telephoned me an account of the fracas. Several policemen were injured; about 145 protesters were removed in Black Marias, a couple of which were stoned as they drove through the streets. Had the demonstrators succeeded in breaking in, we might have had a nasty time.

October 24, 1962 - Wednesday

I spent most of the morning on the subject of protecting the Embassy. I congratulated Mr. Kemp, our new Security Officer, and Sergeant Goodwin, the

"In his message and through the United States Ambassador in London President Kennedy made it clear to me on Monday, October 22 that he had become very concerned about the Soviet supplies of offensive weapons to Cuba in recent weeks. It is of course true that the United States authorities had known for some time the location of a number of surface to air missile sites in Cuba, but these missiles, even though carrying nuclear warheads, may be regarded as of a defensive nature. Very recently, however, at least eight ballistic missile sites have been definitely identified in Cuba. Normally each such site has four launchers and each launcher has two missiles. This indicates a capability of delivering a total of 64 MRBM and IRBM missiles. Reports from all American intelligence sources confirm that at least 30 missiles are already present in Cuba. MRBM missiles, with their range of over a thousand miles, could reach a large area of the United States including Washington and nearly the whole of Central America and the Caribbean including the Panama Canal. Intermediate range ballistic missiles have an operational range of 2200 nautical miles. Further sites for both types of missiles are being constructed. All these missiles are designed to carry and must be presumed to carry nuclear bombs. ~~In addition, Russia has supplied Cuba with IL 28 aircraft, of which over twenty have been definitely identified. These bombers are of course offensive and not defensive weapons. It is interesting to note that the Soviet Union do not appear to have denied the presence of these missiles in Cuba and indeed it may be difficult for them to do so since the United States believe that there are at least five thousand Soviet military personnel already on the island.~~

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We had a cocktail party tonight for:

Mr. and Mrs. George Crawford
Mr. and Mrs. Harris Nelson (Barron's)
Mr. and Mrs. Julian Allen
Mr. Kenneth Fox (Kansas City Star)
Mrs. Mildred Dilling (Harpist)
Doreen Lady Brabourne
Mr. Charles Harding (Art dealer)
General and Mrs. Puryear
Mr. and Mrs. Jackson Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Frazier Meade

In connection with Embassy security, we have given strict instructions to the Marines, as well as to the rest of our personnel, that under no circumstances are they to use pistols, even if attacked. We have sent to Frankfort for a supply of tear gas, with and would expect/it to repulse any attempt by rioters to penetrate above the first floor of the building. I do, however, want to reconsider whether for the protection of the code room we should not, as a last resort, open fire.

October 25, 1962 - Thursday

Cuet Cooper returns to Washington this morning. In the aftermath of his visit we are still having repercussions from the release of some of the air reconnaissance pictures to the London newspapers. After midnight two days ago, Mike Forrestal called me from the Operations Room at the White House to inquire into which photographs had been shown. It seems there was a question as to whether the release in the United States should not be simultaneous. As a result of a misconception of what occurred, Bill Clark, our PAO, has now been referred to in the Washington Post as the "errant USIS Officer in London" who made a mistake. Russ Wiggins, of the Post, is coming to see me this afternoon, and I shall straighten it out with him.

Walter Stoessel, SHAPE Liaison Officer, came over to see me this morning, on instructions from Laurie Norstad, to give me a paper recording certain features

SECRET
DECLASSIFIED

of Norstad's private conversation with the Prime Minister. It was kind of the General to have gone to this trouble. He has conveyed the substance of what he told me to the President. As I had heard it directly myself from Macmillan, we can let the matter rest.

I had a lunch today, arranged by John Correll, at the house for himself, and Messrs. Fred Hayday, George Woodcock, and Harry Douglass, of the TUC. At 50, Fred Hayday is the youngest trade unionist ever to serve as chairman of the 8 million strong Trades Union Congress. He is the first to follow in the footsteps of his father, Arthur Hayday, ~~████████~~ TUC chairman in 1931. He is considered intelligent, realistic and competent. Politically, he is slightly right of center, but ~~████~~ forward-looking and progressive. He has visited the US, is considered an outstanding trade union specialist in the gas and electricity industry, and is a member of two committees established by the Government to advise Ministers on radiation hazards. George Woodcock has been TUC General Secretary for two years. Already he has created a widespread favorable impression. More of an economist than a politician, he prefers a quiet, almost secluded private life to the many public requirements of his job. He is a Lancashire man and a member of the Roman Catholic Church. Harry Douglass, as General Secretary of the Steelworkers Union, has a real capacity for constructive leadership. The industrial relations in the steel industry are among the best in the UK. Douglass is a witty, shrewd Yorkshireman. He is considered right of center, and this year is chairman of the TUC's Economic Committee which deals with the Government on economic matters, the Common Market, and kindred subjects. He has been to the United States several times and knows many of our top trade unionists, including George Meany.

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As far as I was concerned, we had a delightful time. We engaged in an uninhibited interchange over the subject of American policy toward Cuba, in the course of which it was interesting to hear of the internal turmoil the issue has created in trade union ranks. They are all three intelligent, intelligible, and articulate. I thought Woodcock's summation was striking, when he observed that no matter what happened in the Cuban affair, his policy would finally be dictated by his instincts; those instincts would be to side with the US, right or wrong.

This afternoon, Bill Rogers, formerly Attorney General under President Eisenhower, and Russell Wiggins, of the Washington Post, came to see me. I took them out to the house, where I had a meeting with these American newspaper correspondents:

- Sheward Haggerty, Newsweek
- Louis Rukeyser, Baltimore Sun
- William Stoneman, Chicago Daily News
- Joseph Fromm, US News and World Report
- Norman Gelb, Mutual Broadcasting Co.
- William Sheehan, ABC
- Robert Eastabrook, Washington Post
- Drew Middleton, New York Times
- Robert Ball, Time
- James Anderson, Westinghouse Broadcasting
- Fernard Auberjonois, Toledo Blade
- Arthur Veysey, Chicago Tribune
- Graham Hovey, Minneapolis Star-Tribune
- Joseph Harsch, NBC
- Alexander Kendrick, CBS

Rogers and Wiggins have been in London, negotiating for the use of certain articles and services from the Observer, the Sunday Times, and the Manchester Guardian. The Post will handle these for national distribution, and as I understand it, there will be some sharing by the Los Angeles Times. The Post is also taking over Walter Lippmann from the Herald Tribune syndicate, and shortly expects to engage Joe Alsop. Since the Herald Tribune is losing so much money, Wiggins says

SECRET
DECLASSIFIED

they should be glad of this new arrangement, for under it they will obtain Lippmann and Alsop articles for less than it now costs them.

We had an animated cocktail party. Journalists are seldom reluctant to pose embarrassing questions. These were not, however, too difficult to dispose of. A couple of them, with considerable suspicion about the British, and perhaps animus against them, were determined to put across the argument that the Government and the Opposition would sell Berlin and Turkey down the river if they could.

They all showed a decided interest in the timing of the briefing of the Prime Minister, de Gaulle, and Adenauer, and concluded that this last performance represented a real security achievement on the part of the US Government. Some of them expressed surprise over the sturdy backing given to the President's policy by the British.

October 26, 1962 - Friday

Raining this morning. It is announced the maximum temperature will be 54°.

I have a complete breakdown of Embassy personnel. It is interesting to note that American State Department employees represent only about a third of the total. The reason for the large number of locals employed by State is chiefly due to our administrative office having charge of all the general services of our establishments. As concerns the other agencies, this is done on a so-called reimbursable basis.

About ten o'clock this morning I had a call from Francis Burton, Jr., of

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DATE 6/7/81

Richmond, Virginia. In view of the hour there being five o'clock a.m., and from the tenor of his conversation, I would guess he might have been celebrating something during the night. At any rate, he falsely ascribed to me and congratulated me on the firm stand taken by the British Government in backing the US on Cuba. He also said he and his friends would like to run me as Governor of Virginia. I was unable

SECRET

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to put across to him the idea that I was not a citizen of Virginia. Next, he wanted to sell me a large farm in Halifax County. Failing in that endeavor, he offered to buy my own. I used to know his father well. He lived at Stuart, Virginia.

I had a short talk with William Davies, of the Old Millhillians' Club, whose annual dinner I attended last year. He wanted me to send a message to them for use at their reunion this evening.

I took Matt McClosky, our Ambassador to Ireland, to our staff meeting this morning. He amused us all by his remarks on his experiences thus far at his post. He said he had no vexatious duties, but was trying to keep his wife from being homesick by making periodical importations of their children and their 38 grandchildren.

I lunched at Bucks with Bill Stoneman. I had not known he suffered from high blood pressure. He felt so faint that at one point he thought he might have to leave and go home. I sensed he must be in considerable distress when he ~~rejected~~ a tempting looking roast partridge.

He thinks, as I do, that most of the decisions to be made in the future regarding Cuba should be done by the US on a unilateral basis. I especially fear too great an involvement by the UN in this affair.

On the way back from Bucks, I stopped in at Tessier, and ordered another flat silver service. To compensate somewhat for this expenditure, I left on offer with Peter Vaughan at John Sparks & Co. two Chinese saucers, made about 1000 A.D., that I ~~bought~~ bought years ago from Mathias Komor soon after he had set up his business in New York. They were part of his stock at Shanghai. This ~~was~~ confiscated by the Japanese, but ^{found} carefully packed ~~in~~ after the Japanese surrender. He located most of it in Tokyo.

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This morning, we delivered to the Prime Minister copies of five messages that had passed from October 21 to October 25 between President Kennedy and Chairman Khrushchev. The President's communications were ~~very~~ tough; ~~the~~ the replies ~~very~~ little less so. Khrushchev continues to deny that the weapons sent to Cuba are "offensive". He asserts that violation of the freedom of the use of international waters and international air space is an act of aggression, pushing mankind towards the abyss of a world missile-nuclear war.

Our reports indicate that Soviet cargo ships carrying munitions have all ^{one of} ^{to the President} turned back, but Khrushchev, in his messages, stated emphatically that the Soviet Government cannot give instructions to the captains of Soviet vessels bound for Cuba to obey the orders of the American Naval forces blockading the island.

The Home and Macmillan speeches yesterday, and what Home told the Soviet Charge d'Affaires, Loginov, when he called at the Foreign Office yesterday, have been most helpful to us.

I was to see Harold Caccia this afternoon at the Foreign Office, to take up with him an urgent request from Averell Harriman for the UK Government, to increase its contribution for the financial assistance program in Laos. He was unable to see me, since he remained closeted with the Prime Minister for hours. I sent him a memorandum on the subject.

Tonight, Pamela Berry dined with us.

October 27, 1962 - Saturday

Beautiful cold day, temperature 50°. We ~~very~~ accepted an invitation to spend the weekend at Lady Hesketh's in Northamptonshire. There is to be a steeplechase meeting today on her private race course at Towcester.

I decided in ~~view of the Cuban problem to remain~~ here, so E went down alone.

SECRET

The PM and Lord Home cancelled their engagements, and both will be in town. I am glad I made this decision, for both at the office and at home I was fully occupied, receiving and transmitting messages.

President Kennedy and Chairman Khrushchev are burning up the wires. This morning the latter K proposed to link the Cuban with the Turkish bases by an agreement to ~~dismantle both of them~~. The former K promptly rejected the offer.

Tom Beale came out this evening with papers for me, as did Bill Clark after dinner.

October 28, 1962 - Sunday

Mac Toon came out this morning, with emergency messages to be delivered to the Prime Minister. One of them was a long telegram, hitherto not passed on, from Khrushchev to Kennedy, polemical in nature, adding little to the prospect of peaceful settlement. Another was addressed by the President to Macmillan, deGaulle and Adenauer, suggesting that Norstad remain on as Supreme Allied Commander until perhaps January 1, 1963. I am sure Laurie will be pleased to do so; I had mentioned this possibility when he was here a few days ago. He answered that if the opportunity were presented he would grasp it.

Al Wells also came to the house to give me some useful information from Philip de Zulueta.

I worked on a roundup telegram to the Secretary, which was despatched as follows:

E returned before lunch. Immediately afterwards, Findley Burns, today's Duty Officer, telephoned to say there was coming in over the wire services an announcement by Khrushchev of his intention to dismantle the offensive weapon bases in Cuba, as well as to ~~to state and ship to the Soviet Union~~ the offending weapons.